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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Branch of Wildlife Refuges
Washington 25, D. C.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICUL

PUBLIC USE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES - 1954

WL-366

More than 5 million persons visited the national wildlife refuges during 1954. These 5,202,260 visitors last year represent an increase of over 11 percent. Of this number, nearly one-third, or 1,612,189, used the refuges for fishing. Public waterfowl hunting was permitted on parts of 32 refuges in the United States, while upland and big-game hunting was permitted on parts of 23 others. This amounted to 361,366 visitor-days for all types of hunting. Opportunities were afforded for picnicking, swimming, and wildlife observations, and these, together with business and official use, amounted to 3,228,705 visitor-days. Refuges are managed on a multiple-use basis, insofar as this can be accomplished without defeating the primary objective for which each was established. This has permitted increased public use of refuges for recreational purposes.

The following tabulation of public use is based upon information submitted by all refuge managers. The tabulation is arranged by regions.

REGION 1

Refuge	Total Use Visitor Days All Types	Hunting Use	Fishing Use	Miscellaneous Use
Bowdoin, etc.	17,405	590	-	16,815
Camas	980	-	-	980
Deer Flat	60,000	2,000	27,000	31,000
Desert Game	96,900	4,000	3,500	89,400
Fort Peck	102,270	8,860	25,000	68,410
Hart Mountain	10,450	1,074	-	9,376
Little Pend Oreille	9,600	4,200	4,000	1,400
Malheur	3,490	990	500	2,000
Medicine Lake	27,000	300	50	26,650
Merced	1,782	1,282	-	500
Minidoka	13,468	-	2,226	11,242
National Bison	26,000	-	-	26,000
Nine-Pipe, etc.	8,000	-	5,600	2,400
Red Rock Lakes	1,160	260	150	750
Ruby Lake	950	600	200	150
Sacramento, etc.	5,468	1,743	-	3,725
Salton Sea	1,364	1,164	-	200
Sheldon	6,760	1,800	1,060	3,900
Snake River	900	500	250	150
Stillwater, etc.	10,716	6,466	3,500	750
Tule Lake, etc.	146,957	34,457	12,000	100,500
Turnbull, etc.	3,500	-	-	3,500
Willapa	1,700	200	-	1,500
Total	556,820	70,486	85,036	401,298

REGION 2

Refuge	Total Use Visitor Days All Types	Hunting Use	Fishing Use	Miscellaneous Use
Aransas	19,540	-	-	19,540
Bear River	19,705	5,748	1,177	12,780
Bitter Lake	16,628	-	5,666	10,962
Bosque del Apache	1,555	-	1,200	355
Burford	1,175	75	800	300
Cabeza Prieta	215	-	-	215
Hagerman	15,850	-	12,350	3,500
Havasu	171,233	2,605	151,763	16,865
Imperial	62,700	1,800	32,300	28,600
Kofa	2,750	-	-	2,750
Laguna Atascosa	23,050	-	19,100	3,950
Monte Vista	1,640	-	-	1,640
Muleshoe	500	-	-	500
National Elk	2,975	-	725	2,250
Salt Plains	68,500	-	17,000	51,500
San Andres	703	484	-	219
Santa Ana	5,040	-	-	5,040
Tishomingo	23,219	-	16,049	7,170
Wichita Mountains	852,316	-	42,616	809,700
Total	1,289,294	10,712	300,746	977,836

REGION 3

Arrowwood	11,280	280	-	11,000
Bear Butte	10,000	-	5,000	5,000
Chautauqua	44,191	3,000	37,191	4,000
Crab Orchard	864,300	31,050	125,250	708,000
Crescent Lake	6,400	-	5,700	700
Des Lacs	9,270	270	-	9,000
Fort Niobrara	24,500	-	-	24,500
Horicon	185,000	17,700	50,000	117,300
Lacreek	6,000	1,500	4,000	500
Lake Andes	78,000	3,000	50,000	25,000
Lake Ilo	5,000	-	3,000	2,000
Long Lake	3,700	-	3,100	600
Lostwood	19,250	150	-	19,100
Lower Souris	18,700	4,100	12,500	2,100
Mingo	18,000	-	10,000	8,000
Mud Lake	2,780	2,170	-	610

REGION 3 (cont.)

Refuge	Total Use	Hunting	Fishing	Miscellaneous
Necedah	30,100	22,100	3,000	5,000
North Platte	124,000	-	10,000	114,000
Rice Lake	18,000	-	15,000	3,000
Sand Lake	22,716	16,816	1,600	4,300
Seney	24,000	3,000	8,000	13,000
Shiawassee	11,200	3,600	4,800	2,800
Slade and Easement District 1	15,500	200	100	15,200
Squaw Creek	2,500	-	-	2,500
Sullys Hill	22,847	-	-	22,847
Swan Lake	18,000	-	4,500	13,500
Tamarac	30,000	10,000	5,000	15,000
Union Slough	33,249	7,650	14,000	11,599
Upper Mississippi, Lower Pools, etc.	441,220	133,900	193,770	113,550
Upper Souris	20,000	800	18,000	1,200
Valentine	21,000	-	10,000	11,000
Waubay	6,500	300	-	6,200
Total	2,147,203	261,586	593,511	1,292,106

REGION 4

Back Bay	3,400	-	2,600	800
Big Lake	30,000	-	8,000	22,000
Blackbeard	1,150	450	500	200
Cape Romain	3,865	190	1,250	2,425
Carolina Sandhills	6,200	-	3,200	3,000
Chassahowitzka	4,400	650	3,600	150
Delta	40,000	-	4,000	36,000
Great White Heron, Key West and Key Deer	80,000	-	65,000	15,000
Kentucky Woodlands	36,255	1,255	15,000	20,000
Lacassine	2,500	-	1,000	1,500
Loxahatchee	10,550	50	8,000	2,500
Mattamuskeet	19,597	3,316	10,281	6,000
Noxubee	5,335	2,100	1,435	1,800
Okefenokee	14,481	-	6,530	7,951
Pea Island	11,370	-	5,970	5,400
Piedmont	4,825	-	25	4,800
Presquile	150	-	-	150
Reelfoot and Lake Isom	122,300	-	111,200	11,100
Sabine	28,800	-	8,800	20,000
Sanibel and Florida I.	55,295	-	11,059	44,236

REGION 4 (cont.)

Refuge	Total Use	Hunting	Fishing	Miscellaneous
Santee	53,000	-	50,000	3,000
St. Marks	80,000	635	8,000	71,365
Savannah	3,500	-	300	3,200
Swanquarter	6,000	-	3,000	3,000
Tennessee	242,000	-	210,000	32,000
Wheeler	182,925	3,000	74,425	105,500
White River	29,250	-	4,000	25,250
Total	1,077,148	11,646	617,175	448,327

REGION 5

Blackwater & Susquehanna	4,003	-	650	3,353
Bombay Hook	10,125	237	600	9,288
Brigantine	3,072	399	1,197	1,476
Chincoteague	3,200	-	250	2,950
Missisquoi	1,007	-	-	1,007
Monomoy	6,268	-	3,014	3,254
Montezuma	22,500	-	6,500	16,000
Moosehorn	19,500	6,300	2,200	11,000
Parker River and Great Meadows	62,120	-	1,310	60,810
Total	131,795	6,936	15,721	109,138
GRAND TOTAL	5,202,260	361,366	1,612,189	3,228,705